

**2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting  
Virtual Town Meeting  
October 29, 2020  
Third Session**

The Third Session of the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting was held in a virtual/remote meeting and was called to order at 9:25 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020 by Frank Foss, Town Moderator. Town Meeting had previously voted to consider the subject matters of Article 23 and 24 as the first order of business after 2020 Special Town Meeting #1 dissolved.

**ARTICLE 23: Warrant Article Sponsored by the Town Meeting Practices and Rules Committee For the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

To see what action(s) the Town will take to:

- 1) Amend Article 3 and/or Article 23 of the Town of Natick Bylaws to provide that the consideration and report, by the Finance Committee, of matters of business included within the articles of any warrant for a Town Meeting shall be required mandatory condition and such consideration shall be conducted as a public hearing at which residents and taxpayers, as defined in Article 2 section 10 of the Charter, and town employees shall have the right and opportunity to be heard on such matters of business;
- 2) Specify notice or publication requirements for such public hearing whether simply consistent with the open meeting law or otherwise;
- 3) Amend Article 3 of the Town of Natick Bylaws to allow the representative town meeting to waive the requirements contemplated in 1) above for such consideration, report and public hearing on specified or particular matters of business and to set the quantum of vote and other requirements for such waivers and include such waivers in the chart for Precedence of Motions;
- 4) Amend the Town of Natick Bylaws to establish that the requirement(s) contemplated 1) above is necessary for such specified or particular matters of business to be in order at Town Meeting unless a waiver is voted;
- 5) Amend Article 7-9-b of the Town Charter to amend the phrase “unless otherwise provided by the charter or by law” to read “unless otherwise provided by the charter, law or by bylaw” or similar wording;

Or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION A**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>8-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>September 10, 2020</b>

**MOTION A: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager, that the Town vote to amend Article 23 Finance Committee, Section 4, Report, Recommendations, of the Town Bylaws by inserting, after the sentence which ends “its recommendation as to each article.”, the following:

“As part said due consideration, the Finance Committee shall conduct a public hearing at which residents and taxpayers, as defined in Article 2, section 10 of the Charter, and town employees shall have the right and opportunity to be reasonably heard on such matters of business that are contained within the articles of any warrant for a Town Meeting. Compliance with the open meeting law shall be sufficient notice for such public hearing.”

So that Section 4 now reads:

“The Finance Committee shall consider all matters of business included within the articles of any warrant for a Town Meeting, and shall, after due consideration, report thereon, in print, its recommendation as to each article. As part of said due consideration, the Finance Committee shall conduct a public hearing at which residents and taxpayers, as defined in Article 2 section 10 of the Charter, and town employees shall have the right and opportunity to be reasonably heard on such matters of business that are contained within the articles of any warrant for a Town Meeting. Compliance with the open meeting law shall be sufficient notice for such public hearing.

The Finance Committee shall distribute its said report to each of the Town Meeting Members at least seven (7) days in advance of a Town Meeting, except where compliance with this provision would defeat the purpose of a Special Town Meeting. The said recommendations shall be those of a majority of the appointed Committee at the time of the vote, but this shall not be construed to prevent recommendations by a minority as such. The Committee Report shall also state the total amount of the appropriations recommended by them on the entire Warrant. Said report for the Annual Town Meeting shall also contain a statement of the doings of the Committee during the year, with any such recommendations or suggestions as it may deem advisable on any matters pertaining to the welfare of the Town.”

Mr. Griesmer spoke to Motion A under Article 23. *Motion A under Article 23 passed by a majority vote (85-20-6).*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION B**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>8-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>September 10, 2020</b>

**MOTION B: (two-thirds vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to amend Article 3 Procedure at Town Meetings Section 1 Rules of Procedure by inserting a new paragraph after the paragraph which concludes “ruling of the Moderator shall prevail.” As follows:

“The representative town meeting may, by 2/3rds vote, waive any requirement in the bylaws for a public hearing, unless required by statute or the Town Charter, on specified or particular matters of business included within the articles of any Town Meeting.”

So that Article 3 Section 1 now reads:

**“Section 1 Rules of Procedure**

The proceedings of Town Meetings shall be governed by such rules of practice as are clearly set out in the most recent edition of "Town Meeting Time" by Johnson, Trustman, and Wadsworth, except as modified by law or by the following sections. In the event that "Town Meeting Time" does not clearly indicate a single course of action, the ruling of the Moderator shall prevail.

The representative town meeting may, by 2/3rds vote, waive any requirement in the bylaws for a public hearing, unless required by statute or the Town Charter, on specified or particular matters of business included within the articles of any Town Meeting.”

Moved by Ms. Brunell, seconded by Mr. Lum to amend the main motion by deleting the phrase “two-thirds” and inserting the phrase “majority”. Moved by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Ms. Keeney to move the question and end debate on the amendment. *The motion to move the question and end debate passed by a two-thirds vote (93-3-1). The amendment failed (36-62-2).* Moved by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Sidney to move the question and end debate on Motion B. *The motion to close debate on the main motion passed by a two-thirds vote (98-3-1). The main Motion B under Article 23 passed by a majority vote (81-13-6).*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION C**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>8-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>September 10, 2020</b>

**MOTION C: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager, that the Town vote to amend the chart “Precedence of Motions” in Article 3 of the Bylaws by adding, after the line “Take No Action”, a new line beginning with the words “Waive Mandatory Conditions Precedent +++++” under the column “Motions” and adding the word “Yes” under the column “Second Required”, adding the word “Yes” under the column “Debate”, adding the word “No” under the column “Amend” and adding the words “2/3 Majority” under the column “Vote Required,”

And by adding a footnote after the existing footnotes to read “+++++Finance Committee Public Hearing; See Bylaws Article 3 Section 1; Article 23 Section 4”

So that the chart “Precedence of Motions” now reads:

## PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS


Motion	Second Required	Debate	Amend	Vote Required
Adjourn or dissolve	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adjourn to a fixed time or recess++++	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Lay on the table	Yes	Yes	No	2/3 Majority
For the previous question+++	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
For secret ballot	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
Roll call vote	Yes	Yes	No	1/3 Majority
Postpone to a time certain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Commit, recommit, or refer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Postpone indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Main Motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Take no action	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Waive Mandatory Conditions Precedent +++++	Yes	Yes	No	2/3 Majority
Reconsideration	Yes	Yes	No	2/3 Majority
Take from the table	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Take up an article out of order	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 Majority

+	See Section 3.
++	Some main motions are required by the general laws to be passed by greater than a majority vote; for example, bond issues, zoning changes, the taking of land require a 2/3 vote. For other examples, refer to the appendix in <i>Town Meeting Time</i> entitled "Quantum of Vote."
+++	See Section 11.
++++	See Bylaw Article 1, Section 3.
+++++	Finance Committee Public Hearing; See Bylaws Article 3 Section 1; Article 23 Section 4"

***Motion C under Article 23 passed by a majority vote (93-3-2).***

Moved by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2020. ***The motion to adjourn until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2020 passed by a two-thirds vote (92-1-1).*** The third session of 2020 Fall Annual Town meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM on Thursday, October 29, 2020.

A record of the Third Session of  
2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting  
October 29, 2020

  
Diane Packer  
Town Clerk